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Capsule 41

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Nurturing Scientific Interest in Gwalior

It is impossible to cure a child's curiosity. Parents, teachers and guardians struggle hard to keep up with the incessant flow of whys, hows, whens and wheres. National Council of Science Museums however believes that this curiosity is the petridish of scientific thought and with the right kind of encouragement the incorrigible querist can grow into tomorrow's scientist.

The Science Activity Centre, (SAC) part of the Bal Bhavan complex at Gwalior, is one such attempt. It was inaugurated in Nov 1995 by Madhav Rao Scindia, Minister for Human Resource Development, Govt of India.

Through various participatory exhibits, games and displays SAC provides both environment and opportunity for children to test out scientific theories first hand. It also encourages children to take up fresh projects by giving them the necessary training and guidance.

The SAC unfolds as a scientific adventure in four acts -

(i) Science kit collection - Here children are encouraged to

play with various kits and toys that give information on various aspects of science. Also on display are attractive yet simple charts and diagrams. Most of these kits are so designed that they can be easily and inexpensively reproduced for use elsewhere. Children are also treated to a display of rare zoological specimens.

(ii) Planetarium - Seated within an inflated balloon, children are introduced to numerous planets and galaxies. A visit to this make-shift planetarium makes the children familiar with the night sky.

(iii) Fun Science exhibit - Participatory exhibits on various topics like Light and Motion intrigue and excite young visitors into thinking for themselves.

(iv) Creative corner - Here young science enthusiasts are able to give shape to some of their own ideas e.g. they may design and fabricate science exhibits and models. SAC provides all necessary guidance and technical training. Small groups of teachers may also avail training to make teaching aids.

Attached to the SAC is a beautiful Science Park where we find many open-air participatory exhibits. It also has a collection of pet birds and rabbits which are a source of constant joy for small children.

The SAC is NCSM's pilot project for a full scale science centre in Gwalior.

New Demonstration Lecture Unit

The Birla Industrial and Technological Museum unveiled its latest Demonstration Lecture Unit on 'Electro-magnetism'. This adds to the list of 14 such units developed over the years which now cover almost the entire syllabus of Physical Science for senior classes.

The Demonstration Lecture Unit provides the best supplement to classroom science education. Something all teachers are free to use. Fascinating experiments and demonstrations make scientific theories real-life experiences for students.

Science Park, Gulbarga

The District Science Centre, Gulbarga now has its own Science Park. Inaugurated on Mar 2 by Tapan Senapati, Divisional Commissioner, Gulbarga. The Park stretches over an area of one acre leased from the Govt of Karnataka. Though adjacent to the DSC, the Science Park has a separate entrance.

The Park takes the museum experience out of doors. It has 21 exhibits which provide ample entertainment for small children. To the more discerning, these displays indirectly illustrate important scientific theories. They also inspire wonder and the spirit of inquiry. Some examples of such exhibits are - 'Sympathetic swing', 'Roller coaster', 'Journey through two paths (minimum time)', model on 'Motion', 'Nipkov's Disc' and 'Loop the Loop'. On view are 'Geodesic Domes' (one of 15 mtr and four of 5 mtr diameters) containing birds and pet animals.



Children demonstrate for visiting dignitaries at Science Activity Corner

Eastern India Science Fair was held at Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Calcutta in collaboration with the Directorate of Education, Eastern India and the Sports and Youth Services Dept, Govt of West Bengal.

Over 334 students, teachers and members of science clubs contributed 200 models. They had been selected from district and state level science fairs at Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim and Tripura. The Calcutta district level science fair was held at BITM from Jan 10-12 and the West Bengal state level science fair was organised simultaneously with the Eastern India Fair.

At the Fair, there were special students' camps on Electronics, Bio-technology, Environment and Photography.

Inaugurated on Feb 5 by Kanti Biswas, Minister, Primary and Secondary Education, Govt of West Bengal. On Feb 9, Subhas Chakraborty, Minister, Sports, Youth Services and Tourism gave the valedictory speech. Dr Chanchal Mazumdar, Director, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences gave away the prizes.

Western India Science Fair was held in the exhibition grounds of Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai,

organised jointly by NSCM and the Education Depts of the Govts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Union Territories of Daman, Diu, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and the Dept of Science and Technology, Rajasthan.

The schedule from Dec 12-16, 1995 bristled with educational activities. Students were encouraged to take up off-beat and inexpensive hobbies. There were special sessions on computers, screen printing, paper craft, sky observation, film shows and an exciting demonstration 'Science vs Miracles'.

A new dimension this year was a display by various producers of educational and scientific toys, games and books.

For teachers, there were workshops and guidance sessions as well as a seminar with Director of NSCM.

Students and teachers were taken on tour of the NSCM. There was a demonstration of science quiz 'Quest'. Sight-seeing was arranged for all participants.

Though Dadar and Nagar Haveli went unrepresented due to unavoidable circumstances, the exposition this year showed marked improvement. 157 students and teachers participated.

Students could create displays on anything relevant to science and technology. The teachers, in making teaching aids, were however expected to conform to standard VIII to X syllabus.

The fair was inaugurated on Dec 12, 1995 by Prof M M Sharma, Director, University Dept of Chemical Technology, Matunga. Dr Arvind Kumar, Director, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science

Education, Mumbai gave the valedictory address and distributed prizes. Participants represented their regional traditions in a cultural programme.

The Southern India Science Fair opened at PERKS Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore on Jan 23 organised jointly by the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum and the Dept of Education, Govt of Tamilnadu.

The 478 participants of the Southern India Fair were the best entrants of state level fairs in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

There were demonstrations of numerous science based models and lively cultural programmes. 122 prizes were awarded including teacher's awards, industrial special prizes, scholarships and trophies.

The fair was inaugurated by C P Singh, IAS, Collector, Coimbatore and attracted 60000 visitors. The valedictory address was given by Dr N Subramanyam, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore on Jan 27.

District and State level Science Fairs

Jawaharlal Nehru Science Exhibition at Srikrishna Science Centre, Patna was organised in collaboration with the District Education Office on Nov 2-3.

Around 165 students and teachers participated. The topic this year was 'Science and low cost technology for development' with seven sub-themes: Food, health and nutrition, Energy, Environment, Industry, Transport and communication, Education Technology.

The fair inaugurated by Dr Dharendra Prasad, ex-Director, SCERT drew around 7000 visitors. Dashrath Ram, District Education Officer, Patna gave the valedictory address.



A student struggles to describe the wonder of science at Western India Science Fair

SCIENCE FAIRS

The state level science fair of **Regional Science Centre, Guwahati** was organised during Dec 27-29, 1995 with the help of the Directorate of Secondary Education, Govt of Assam. About 92 students from 7 districts participated.

Apart from model displays and demonstrations, there were a series of popular science lectures which were well received by Ashim K Sharma and Meghnad Nath from the Pollution Control Board of Assam. With the aid of slides Dr Amarjyoti Chowdhuri, Head of Dept of Electronics, Guwahati University described the 'Wonderful World of Laser'. Before the prize distribution and valediction, the audience was treated to a special item by a young student Jyotsna Hazarika styled as 'Scientific Magic Show'.

The fair was inaugurated by Tilottama Barooah, Director of Secondary Education, Assam. The students received awards from Dr A K Goswami, Director of Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council.

Twenty-eight students were selected for the Eastern India Science Fair.

BITM, District Youth Office, Purulia and Sports and Youth Services Dept, Govt of West Bengal organised the Purulia District Science Fair at **District Science Centre, Purulia**.

There were model displays, film and cultural shows. The fair was inaugurated by Rabindranath Kar, Sabhadhipati, Zilla Parishad on Jan 27. Tarakesh Chattopadhyay presided the valedictory ceremony and Kashinath Behera, IAS, District Magistrate, Purulia gave away the prizes.

RSC, Tirupati hosted the Regional Science Fair between Jan 26 and 28. 37 schools contributed 88 exhibits. The theme this year was 'Science - A Key to Modern Living' with four sub-themes: Food and Health, Conservation and Resources, Transport System, Space Science and Communication.



Exchange of knowledge at RSC Tirupati Science Fair

Dr R Sathyanarayan, Regional Jt Director of School Education, Cuddapah inaugurated the fair. Dr K V Naidu, Director, Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Science gave away the prizes.

RSC, Bhubaneswar organised a 'Circle Level Science Fair' from Jan 15-17. Circle Inspector, Khurda District and SCERT, Bhubaneswar collaborated. 73 students from Khurda Education circle participated. They displayed various models on topics like the 'Green House Effect', 'Battery Operated Cars', 'Natural Television', 'Economic Water Treatment Plant' etc.

A popular science lecture by S Pattanaik, Editor of 'Sambad' and



Sharing the scientific experience - Science Fair 96 at RSC, Bhubaneswar

a quiz competition involving 46 students were some other attractions.

The fair was inaugurated by N Pattanaik, Minister for Industry, Govt of Orissa. Dr Debendra Kr Roy, Director, Primary Education gave the valedictory speech and Dr N P Dass gave away the prizes.

DSC, Bardhaman's District Science Fair began on Jan 28 with support from District Youth Office and Paschim Banga Bigyan Manch, Bardhaman. Thirty-eight students presented 38 models and local science clubs contributed another 11 models. Among the prize winning entries were 'Used Battery for Radio' and 'Low Cost Technology for Development'.

The fair was inaugurated by Prof Mohit Bhattacharya, VC, Burdwan University. Prof G S Dey, Dean, Faculty of Science and Prof B N Biswas, Dept of Physics gave away the prizes.

Virudunagar District Science Fair was held at Ethel Harvey Higher Secondary School for Girls, Sattur from Nov 22-24, 1995 organised by **District Science Centre, Tirunelveli** in collaboration with Education Dept, Govt of Tamilnadu.

In spite of local disturbances which disrupted road traffic for over a month, 52 students from 12 schools took part in the fair. Over 10000 people visited the stalls covering varied topics like Bio-technology, Environment, Electronics, Chemistry and Natural Sciences. Among the best entries were 'The Mechanism of Inheritance', 'Pollution - Sattur, a Glimpse' and 'Blood Circulation in Man'.

The fair was inaugurated by Ganapathi Raman, Chief Educational Officer, Virudunagar who commended the achievements of DSC, Tirunelveli.

NSC, Mumbai - '*Esprit Informatique*' : Exhibition of simple models and a robot 'Arm', explaining the 'Fundamentals of the Computer World' between Feb 20 and 29. The principles of mathematics on which computers are based were explained in simple terms to nearly 3869 students and general visitors. Organised in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise of Mumbai and Birla Science Centre, Hyderabad.



Computer fundamentals in simple terms '*Esprit Informatique*' at NSC, Mumbai

Sir C V Raman Memorial lecture by Prof B P Singh, Director, Indian Inst of Geomagnetism, Mumbai.

BITM, Calcutta - Various interactive events for students and general visitors on Feb 28 : Open House quiz on 'Identification of the Source of Sound'; 'Make and Take'; Astronomy Awareness programme; Sit and Draw contest on 'Save our Planet'; Popular lecture on 'Dinosaurs'; 'Science and Superstition' demonstration; 'Poisonous Snakes' live demonstration; 'Taramandal'show'; 'Electro-magnetism' new science demonstration lecture unit opened for students. Over 6000 students and general public visited the science day celebration.

RSC, Calicut - Inter-school Science Seminars - Feb 28 on 'Solar Eclipse 95' and 'Dr Chandrasekhar and his works' - 10 students of different schools participated

Inter-school science quiz contest on Biology, Chemistry, Astronomy, Physics and Popular Science. Sky observation for students and general public.

Raman Science Centre, Nagpur - Joint celebration of National Science Day and 4th Anniversary Day during Feb 28-Mar 7. Following events were arranged : Sit and Draw contest on Feb 28 & 29 for students of middle and high school; Shanka Samadhan on Feb 28 - Students mailed scientific queries answered by a panel of experts. Organised in collaboration with Marathi Vigyan Parishad; Open house science quiz; Popular science lecture on Mar 1-7 by Dr P V Khandekar, Dr K M Kamble, Dr Anupama Gadkari and Dr P C Deshmukh; Slide show on Astronomy; Science drama 'Kas

Vigyanachi' on eradication of superstitions performed by students, Sewasadan D Ed College on Mar 7; Annual Science quiz prize distribution ceremony on Mar 7.

RSC, Tirupati - Feb 22-28, week-long science festival organised with support from Dept of Physics, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and Tirupati Junior Chamber. Special events : Open house quiz; Painting contest for primary and upper school; Science drama contest - Feb 23; Physics Olympiad - Feb 24; Science quest - Feb 25; College science quiz - Feb 27; Elocution and Essay writing contest for high school; 'Nutritional knowledge of school children in Tirupati' - Popular talk and discussion for teachers by Dr D Peramma and Dr K Chandrakleha of Dept of Home Science, S P Mahila Viswavidyalayam; District level science quiz - Final round, 1222 participants and visitors attended.



Students' drama contest on National Science Day at RSC, Tirupati

RSC, Bhubaneswar - Feb 22-28 : National Science Week in collaboration with Pathani Samanta Planetarium and Orissa Bigyan Academy, Bhubaneswar. 'Are You Ready' popular talk by Dr C Sukumaran, Project Coordinator; General science quiz - Feb 22-25, 12 schools participated; Special science quiz - Feb 23 for

'Meet the Scientist' programme: Unique chance for students of Mumbai on Feb 28 to meet eminent scientists like Prof K S V Santhanam, Chemical Phy. Group of TIFR, Dr A Banerjee, Head, Bio-Organic Divn, BARC, Prof S A Stephens, Space Phy. Group, TIFR, and Prof M S Raghunathan, Maths Divn, TIFR.

'Oral Health Care' camp : Lectures on related topics by dental specialists. Question-answer session on Feb 24. Written quiz on 'Oral Health Care' and Oral Health exhibition developed by M/s Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd. Programme sponsored by 'Young India' Venture, M/s Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd.

'Vacuum in Everyday Life' - Feb 28 : Popular science demonstration by B S Prahalada Rao, Indian Vacuum Society, Mumbai.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

blind students - 5 teams participated; Silk screen printing training camp for the rural unemployed Feb 24-25 in collaboration with Nehru Yuba Kendra, Bhubaneswar; Ext-empore elocution contest for students Feb 26; 'Cooking oils and House wife's Choice' - lecture cum training programme for housewives - Feb 26 conducted by Dr P K Mohanty, Director, Orissa Voluntary Health Association, Bhubaneswar; Inter-school one-act science drama contest - Feb 28 in collaboration with Pathani Samanta Planetarium; 'Astronomy' science model display; Special lecture on the Raman Effect by Prof S N Behera, Director, Inst of Physics; 'Renewable Energy Sources' - exhibition by OREDA; Science film shows and Sky observation programme.

DSC, Dharampur - 10th National Science Day celebration on Feb 28 in collaboration with the Gujarat Council of Science and Technology, Gandhinagar; Science March - About 736 students and 50 teachers walked with banners on ecology, environment, wild life and energy conservation; Poster exhibition by teachers of valsad district created 18 panels on the achievements of Indian Science and Technology in the fields of agriculture, energy, space, transport and communication as well as 12 panels on the life and works of Sir C V Raman; Open house quiz - Science quest 150 students responded to the demonstrations and experiments; 'Teaching Aids' workshop for teachers to design and fabricate low cost aids to supplement the primary and secondary school syllabus; Tribal culture programme -

'Environment' and 'Panch Maha Bhutha' drama by school students Anti-superstition demonstration - 10 experiments explaining the science behind miracles; 'Community health education - Govt policies and role of the public in implementation of programmes' - popular science lecture by Dr Pankaj Kumar Pande, Sr Medical Officer, Jilla Taleem Kendra, Govt of Gujarat; 'India can do it' science exhibition at Children's Hall; Slide show and sky observation programme.

SSC, Patna - Feb 28 celebrations ran as follows: Science quizzes for Jr and Sr School - 17 schools participated; 'Role of Bio-technology in the services of Agricultural Science' - popular science lecture by Dr M P Trivedi, Dept of Botany, Science College, Patna and Prize distribution.

DSC, Dhenkanal - Feb 28 observed in collaboration with Rotary Club of Dhenkanal, Ramana Bigyan Sansad and District Science Council: Science Awareness Rally - 3300 students took part Sit & Draw contest on 'India's Scientific Achievement' for students upto class VIII; Special demonstration and video show on wild life; Inter-school science quiz final for Jr and Sr Group and College level quiz.

Science Activity Corner and Yuva Vigyan Parishad, Gwalior - Special events for Feb 28: Open house quiz; 'Fun with Science' popular lecture; Science poetry contest.

DSC, Purulia - Special events for Feb 28: Planetarium show for children; 'Solar System and total Solar Eclipse' - popular lecture by P K Kabiraj of DSC, Purulia; Special film show for children. Programme arranged in collaboration with Purulia District book fair committee was as follows: Anti-superstition programme; Popular Science Demonstration with teaching aids made by teachers at DSC, Purulia and Science quiz.

DSC, Tirunelveli - On Feb 28 a huge rally organised to mark the '68th anniversary of Raman Effect'. Students, teachers, DSC officials, members of Literacy campaign, Tamilnadu Science Forum, District Science Club and READ participated. Other events included - Children's painting competition; C V Raman Memorial lecture by Prof S Maria Arul Inbaraj, Head - Dept of Mathematics, St. Xavier's College on 'Vedic Mathematics'; Informative booklet on comets released. More future publications planned with aid from the READ Trust.

Bardhaman Science Centre - Feb 28 tribute in collaboration with Burdwan University and Paschim Banga Bigyan Manch. Programme: Science March - 450 students responded; 'Advancement of Science' students debate before a judicial panel of Burdwan University Professors; 'Elementary Introduction to Computers' popular science lecture by Dr Manas Banerjee, Dept of Chemistry, Burdwan University; Open house quiz; Film shows; Taramandal show and Demonstration in Chemistry.

RSC, Bhopal celebrated Anniversary Week from Jan 12-20 in collaboration with M P Council of Science & Technology. Some major items were :- Science Demonstration lectures - 'Fun at low temperature' and 'Science vs Miracles'; Puzzle contest - 18 students tried to solve puzzles in science and mathematics; Essay competition - 28 students from 8 schools described their experiences of 'A visit to a science centre'; 'Name the plant competition' - a mind jogger helping students understand the natural world. Twenty-two students were asked to write down the botanical names of a list of plants supplied by the RSC Science Park; Ex-tempore competition - Eight students from 4 schools spoke for 3 minutes on selected gallery exhibits; Open house quiz and 'Quest' - 325 students participated; Taramandal, science film shows and sky observation programmes arranged daily. Over 500 students and many visitors participated in Anniversary Week celebrations. Apart from the contest prizes, surprise gifts, science books and caps for all participants were distributed, sponsored by MP Council of S&T. Annual Science quiz prizes were sponsored by the MP Board of Secondary Education.

Bardhaman Science Centre celebrated its 2nd Anniversary on Jan 9 with various educational items marked the day : Final rounds of the Annual Science quiz; Practical demonstration of 'Mushroom Trade and Cultivation' by Dr Jagatpati Tah, Dept of Botany, Burdwan University, Dr S K Panja, Asst Teacher, V M Inst (Unit II), Memari spoke on 'Behavioral Diversity in the Living World'. A Sit and Draw

contest and an Open House quiz got enthusiastic response.

DSC, Tirunelveli celebrated 9th anniversary in style. Month-long programme dedicated to teachers, students and public re-establishing the centre's commitment to modern society. Feb 1-10 was Teaching Community Week. Major items - 'Three Dimensional Teaching Methods' workshop for B.Ed students on low cost improvised teaching aids; 'Effective Science Teaching' and 'Effective Classroom Communication' workshop by Prof S Narasimhan, St Xaviers' College, Palayam Kattai. Workshops on 'Kitchen Chemistry' and 'Maintenance of Household Appliances'. Community Week Feb 13-19: Voters' awareness campaign; Community training on making Soap, liquid blue, shampoo, ink etc. organised with assistance from Rural Welfare Centre, Manur; Screen-printing workshop with the District Handicapped Association; 'Maintenance of Sewing Machines' workshop with PMRY Entrepreneur Training Centre, Madurai. 58 unemployed and handicapped persons benefited.

Students' week (Feb 20-26) : Workshops on Environment and AIDS conducted by Prof Selwin Samuel, St John's College and Shankar of EMPOWER; Popsience Fiesta - Two day popular science festival which (by popular demand) is to become a regular annual event. Other competitions e.g. Acting contest 'Scientists at a Press Conference', ex-tempore contests, Turcoat contest, 'Guess by Action' and open house quiz; District level quiz was held at different centres in Virudunagar, Tuticorin, Nagercoil and Tirunelveli; Inter district quiz finals on 26th.

Anniversary Day (Feb 27) : 5th Seminar on computers organised in collaboration with Computer Point. First session - 'Computer Communication on different Platforms' conducted by Munagan, Nexus Ltd. Second session - SQL and FOXPRO and demo on SQL and ORACLE conducted by V M Sundaram, Computer Point. New exhibits 'Sun Dial', 'Archimedian Screw' and 'Marking of Longitude passing through Tirunelveli' opened by R Velu, IAS, District Collector. 'Opinion Form' distributed to know visitors' response.

DSC, Purulia celebrated Anniversary week (Dec 15-21) with programmes on astronomy, bird watching and sky observation; three day science film fest. A Computer fair was held between Dec 18-20.

For it's 12th anniversary, **DSC, Gulbarga** launched the following programmes (Dec 31, '95 to Jan 6, '96) : Poster painting competition co-sponsored by State Pollution Control Board, R.O. Gulbarga; 'Health quiz' for high school students co-sponsored by Indian Association of Family Physicians, Gulbarga; Mathematical Olympiad co-sponsored by State Bank of Hyderabad, Zonal Office, Gulbarga; District level science quiz (semi-finals and finals); 'Early detection of eye defects' workshop for teachers co-sponsored by Lions Club of Gulbarga, Nrupatunga and Lion Lady Auxillary wing, Gulbarga; 'Common psychiatric problems in general practice' co-sponsored by Indian Association of Family Physicians, Gulbarga; Open house quiz on 'General Awareness' co-sponsored by Krishna Grameena Bank, Head Office, Gulbarga; Prize distribution ceremony.

NCSM presented a series of exhibitions at National Science Centre, Delhi in March as part of the Indo-US Sub-Commission's programme on Education & Culture.

The exhibition tried to bring within easy comprehension elements of complex scientific research. They presented a 'Photographic History of the Universe', 'Low Altitude Aerial Photography', 'Earth from Space', 'Structures - Principles and Mechanics' and 'Structures - Indian Heritage'.

Between Jan 4-6, the Indian National Committee for ICOM held its Annual General Conference at NSCD. It was inaugurated by Ms Selja, Minister of State, Education and Culture, Govt of India.

A round-table meet on the 'Future of Museums' was part of the agenda. Eminent scholars and museum experts like Dr Karan Singh, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, Dr Meera Seth, Dr Saroj Ghose, Dr R C Sharma, S Gorakshkar and Dr S M Nair voiced their views.

A series of professional workshops on new concepts in 'Exhibit illumination', 'Art and Technique of writing good labels', 'Exhibit Documentation on Computers and CD-ROM' was also held. The participants hailed from all major museums of India, UK, Russia and Asia-Pacific countries.

An open house quiz contest on 'Vacuum' for Jr College students was organised at **NSC, Mumbai** on Feb 27 conducted by Prahalada Rao, active Member, Indian Vacuum Society, Mumbai. A unique feature of the quiz was the fact that it was based on demonstrations of Vacuum technology applications. Prizes were sponsored by the Society.

For the finals of the Annual Science Quiz (Feb 23), four out of 189 schools had been selected.

To popularise indigenous technology among the masses, the Forum of Scientists, Engineers and Technologists in collaboration with the Dept of Science & Technology, Govt of West Bengal, **BITM, Calcutta** organised a Technology Fair at the Calcutta Maidan. It was inaugurated by the Governor of West Bengal, Shri K V Raghunatha Reddy.

BITM, Calcutta participated in the Fair (Feb 8-21) with a mobile exhibition 'Science of Motion'. It also arranged portable Planetarium shows and lectures on 'Science vs Superstitions'.

The Indian Association for Colour Transparency in collaboration with BITM organised the Eighth Colour Transparency Festival (Jan 20-21). Dr Saroj Ghose, DG, NCSM was Guest-in-Chief. Prof Arabindo Nath Bose, former VC, Jadavpur University and Prof Anjali Mookerjee, Director, Sivatosh Mookerjee Science Centre were Guests-of-Honour. Narayan Sanyal inaugurated the festival. There were technical sessions on both days in which many eminent personalities of different technical areas participated. In 'Retrospective' was Prof T M Das's 'Sunderbans'.

RSC, Tirupati 'Oil Pulling in Ayurveda' a popular lecture by Dr A Mohan, Asst Professor, S V Ayurvedic Medical College, Tirupati arranged.

To mark 'Dr Ramanujam's Birth Anniversary' (Dec 22, 1995), Prof P V Arunachalam, Retd Principal, S V U College of Arts and Sciences, S V University, Tirupati spoke on the 'Life and Works of Dr Srinivasa Ramanujam' at the RSC auditorium. It was

followed by an open house quiz on 'Popular Mathematics' in which 150 visitors took part.

A 'Electronics Hobby Camp' was arranged at **RSC, Bhubaneswar** from Dec 20-27, 1995 in which 18 students from 4 secondary level schools participated. The topics given to the students were : Four Sound Musical Bell (UM-3561); Discolight; Electronics Organ; Auto Street Light Control; M W Voice Transmitter and Battery Eliminator. A total of 24 kits were made by the students. These kits along with certificates were presented to them by Dr P C Naik, Dy Director, Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar. On Dec 29, 1995, Dr P C Naik gave a talk (aided with slide projections) on 'C V Raman - An Ideal Indian Scientist'.

The Centre conducted a Teachers' Training Programme (Dec 22-29, 1995). Fourteen teachers from 8 secondary level schools contributed 56 low cost teaching aids on - Staircase switching systems; Bimetallic strip-fire alarm kit; Expansion of solids kit; Pythagoras theorem kit; Phyllotaxy kit; Transfer of momentum kit; Magnetism from electricity and Pressure-gauge cum air thermometer. Completed kits and certificates were given to all the teachers by Dr P C Naik.

DSC, Gulbarga and Indian Association of Family Physicians, Gulbarga together arranged a special lecture on 'Common Psychiatry Problems in General Practice' by Dr C R Chandrashekar, Addl Professor for Psychiatry, Nimhans, Bangalore. It was held on Jan 3 at the Centre's auditorium.

COMPUTER FAIRS

The Computer Fair a popular annual event in West Bengal extended to ten districts of West Bengal this year - Purulia, Bardhaman, 24-Parganas (North), 24-Parganas (South), Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, Bankura, Midnapore and Calcutta.

The **Calcutta District Computer Fair** was organised at **BITM** from Dec 26-28, 1995. Over 103 students took part in software development, computer related quiz, essay and ex-tempore competitions.

The students qualifying in the 10 district level competitions took part in the **State level Computer Fair** held at **BITM** from Dec 30-Jan 1. About 57 students developed educational software packages which could be used in classroom teaching. 141 students also competed in computer quiz, essay writing and extempore contests.

The Fair closed with the valedictory address of Dr D K Basu, Secretary, Dept of Science & Technology and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Govt of West Bengal.

VITM, Bangalore arranged its Computer Fair from Jan 2-8. Thirty IBM compatible personal computers were used to screen participants. From 156 candidates only 37 school and 12 college students groups managed to clear

the tests to the final round. Here they were each allowed to work on computers for 5 1/2 days to develop software programmes on selected topics. Thus about 25 new software programmes were developed. Prizes were awarded to the best efforts.

The Fair was inaugurated by Dr N Balakrishnan, Chairman, Super Computer Education and Research Centre, Indian Inst of Sciences, Bangalore. It closed with a valediction address by Dr K Karunakar, Dy Director, Aeronautical Development Agency, Bangalore.

The sixth anniversary of **RSC, Lucknow** was celebrated on Sept 7, 1995 by organising a computer fair where 15 teams from different local schools participated. Various programmes like a software competition, popular lectures, open house quiz and film shows were organised. Dr Sushil Kumar, Director, Central Inst of Medicinal Plants, Lucknow inaugurated the fair. Software on as diverse a subject as AIDS, Neurons, Micro-processor, Weather forecasting etc were developed. The fair concluded on

Sept 9 with the prize distribution ceremony.

SSC, Patna organised a Computer Fair between Feb 2 and 4 with the help of Byte Consultant. Students upto class XII took part in software programming, computer quiz, extempore and debate. Dr Sudarshan Sinha, former VC, Patna University gave away the prizes on the last day.



Prize winner at the SSC Computer Fair, Patna

The **Purulia District level Computer Fair** was held at DSC, Purulia from Dec 18-20, 1995. The winners participated in the State level competition at BITM.

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Battle of Bytes at the VITM Computer Fair

"SEE THOSE GUYS HAVE FORGOTTEN US
BUT THEY WILL THINK OF US EVEN IN 20TH C AD"

